

Junblatt briefs Soviet leaders

MOSCOW (R) — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt Friday briefed senior Kremlin officials on the military disengagement in Beirut and efforts by the government to maintain peace in Lebanon as a whole. The Soviet news agency TASS said Mr. Junblatt, whose arrival was not reported by official media, met candidate for PLO member Boris Ponomarev and the Kremlin's chief Middle East expert, Karen Brutents. It quoted the PSP leader as telling them that the Lebanese national unity government was trying to put an end to bloody clashes and create conditions for a nationwide reconciliation. Mr. Junblatt has long received Soviet backing and last came to Moscow for consultations in January after efforts to forge an internal Lebanese peace plan at that time had collapsed. Mr. Ponomarev told him that Moscow fully supported efforts to normalise the situation in Lebanon.

Volume 9 Number 2608

AMMAN, SATURDAY JULY 7, 1984, SHAWWAL 8, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King Talal's death anniversary falls today

AMMAN (Petra) — Today, Saturday, marks the 12th anniversary of the death of the late King Talal bin Abdullah, father of His Majesty King Hussein. On this occasion King Hussein and members of the royal family, in addition to high-ranking government officials, will visit King Talal's tomb at the royal cemetery, where they will recite verses of the Koran.

Saudi leader ends Spanish visit

MADRID (AP) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz ended his four-day official visit to Spain Friday after reports that he had agreed to push for increased arms purchases from Spain. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who accompanied the crown prince to Madrid airport, told reporters that he felt the crown prince's visit had been "highly positive, and relations between our two countries are growing closer."

Kuwait to try 4 Iranians

KUWAIT (R) — Four Iranians are in stand trial in Kuwait accused of plotting sabotage, a senior government official said Thursday. Interior Ministry Under-Secretary Yousef Bader Al Khafafi told Reuters the four men were arrested about a month ago. He said they had planned to blow up a government information building. He said the case was not linked to bomb attacks last December against the U.S. and French embassies and government installations in which six people were reported killed and over 80 injured.

Death toll rises in Tripoli fighting

TRIPOLI (R) — The toll has risen to 41 killed and 125 wounded as pro- and anti-Syrian militias battled in the streets of this northern Lebanese port for the third day, security sources said Thursday. The Lebanese Red Cross removed 11 bodies from deserted buildings in the battle zones during intermittent lulls in the fighting, which has closed the port, schools and most shops.

Austrian envoy visits PFLP-GC captives

VIENNA (R) — The Austrian Foreign Ministry said Friday that Austria's Ambassador to Greece Herbert Amry had been permitted to visit three Israeli prisoners held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC). Austria is presently mediating for an exchange of prisoners of war between Israel and the PFLP-GC and the spokesman said the three men belonged to the group to be exchanged.

Police dismantle Tel Aviv bomb

TEL AVIV (R) — Police Thursday dismantled a bomb hidden in a plastic shopping bag at a Tel Aviv bus stop, Israel Radio reported. It said the device was left under a bench in the Bavli neighbourhood in the north of the city. A week ago police defused a bomb found under a seat in a bus, in the centre of Jerusalem.

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Top Palestinian official meets Assad, Khaddam

Kaddoumi optimistic over PLO-Syria ties

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Relations between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Syrian government, which were strained after Damascus backed a rebellion against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last year, were Friday reportedly taking a good turn towards reconciliation as the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, described his meeting Thursday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "as warm and positive."

Mr. Kaddoumi, who arrived in Damascus last Tuesday and held a four-hour meeting with President Assad Thursday told the Jordan Times in a phone interview Friday that his talks had covered "the basis of consolidating relations between Syria and the PLO and solidifying concentrated efforts to re-organise the Palestinian house."

The Palestinian officials refrained from disclosing more details but said that "the meeting (with President Assad) was warm and positive."

He said that they also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and the importance of "enhancing Arab solidarity to confront the Israeli challenges in the area."

Mr. Kaddoumi strongly refused the argument that his visit constituted a step towards normalising the PLO's relations with Syria saying that "there is no need for normalisation of relations, because they are normal."

"My visit to Damascus and talks with the Syrian officials were step to consolidate PLO-Syrian relations in accordance with resolutions endorsed by the Palestine National Council (PNC)," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

The PNC, the Palestinian parliament in exile, in its last meeting in Algiers in 1983, described relations between the PLO and Syria as "strategic."

Mr. Kaddoumi said that he will soon leave Syria for Tunis to attend a Fateh Central Committee meeting but that he will return to Damascus.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that during the meeting President Assad reiterated "the Syrian support to the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian cause which it considers its first national cause."

Well-informed Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times Friday that Mr. Kaddoumi's talks in Syria "contributed to clarify the political positions" of both sides and will be followed by future meetings between senior PLO and Syrian officials. The sources said that the Assad-Kaddoumi meeting covered the differences between Syria and Fateh, the mainstream command group within the PLO, which led bloody clashes between forces loyal to Mr. Arafat and Syrian-backed Fateh rebels in and around the Lebanese.

(Continued on page 3)

Britain, Nigeria lock horns over Lagos-bound human air cargo

LONDON (Ageocies) — Nigerian authorities grounded a British airliner in Lagos Friday after a prominent Nigerian exile wanted by his government on corruption charges was kidnapped and found drugged in a crate at a London airport, British government and airline officials said.

As the bizarre affair developed into an international incident, Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said two other men found in a second crate awaiting shipment to Lagos were Israeli mercenaries. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it had no immediate comment on the report.

The 222 passengers and 22 crew members on the British Calsonair flight were reported safe at Lagos airport, an airline spokesman said in London.

The British Foreign Office declined to speculate on Nigeria's reasons for grounding the aircraft. But the plane was recalled to Lagos after Britain detained a Nigeria Airways cargo plane that purportedly was to have carried kidnapped former Transport Minister Umaru Dikko to Nigeria. Independent Television News said the Nigerian crew was being detained.

Lagos Radio said in a broadcast monitored in London that the military government there had taken note "that a Nigerian crew and aircraft have been detained by the British authorities... no explanations have been given by the British for their action."

Britain's high commissioner to Nigeria protested to the Nigerian government over the detention of the airliner, Reuters quoted British diplomatic sources as saying in Lagos.

British police have detained 17 men in connection with the incident.

Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Leon Brittan told parliament Friday how Mr. Dikko was found drugged and unconscious when police broke open a crate bound for Lagos at Stansted airport north of London.

The wealthy former transport minister was snatched by gunmen just a few hours earlier outside his luxury west London home.

Mr. Brittan did not identify the 17 detainees but they include a man equipped with drugs and syringes, found in the crate with Mr. Dikko and the two Israelis hidden in a second crate.

The crates were addressed to the External Affairs Ministry in Lagos from the Nigerian high commission in London, although Mr. Brittan stopped short of saying the mission was involved.

Mr. Dikko regained consciousness overnight and was in a very satisfactory condition in hospital, a hospital spokesman said.

Nigeria High Commissioner General Tony Hannaniya was called in by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe to explain events surrounding the Dikko abduction.

He emerged from a 30-minute meeting with Mr. Howe and insisted that his government had no hand in the abduction. Asked if his government had planned it, Mr.

Hannaniya told reporters: "Impossible. My government does not get involved in things like that."

Mr. Howe asked Hannaniya to co-operate in the police investigation of the case, including waiving the immunity of any Nigerian diplomats that might have been involved.

The crates, which were to have been flown out aboard a Nigerian Airlines Boeing 707, were labelled as diplomatic baggage.

But Mr. Brittan said they did not come under the Vienna Convention that forbids the searching of such baggage. They were not accompanied by a courier and had no official documentation.

The Nigerian Boeing was still at Stansted Friday under police guard. Airport authorities became suspicious about the crates after receiving an all-ports alert issued immediately after Mr. Dikko was snatched.

Mr. Dikko, 45, fled from Nigeria within days of a military coup that toppled the elected government of President Shehu Shagari on Dec. 31 last year.

A brother-in-law of the ousted president, Mr. Dikko is wanted on charges of theft and corruption. He masterminded Mr. Shagari's two election victories and was in charge of the highly lucrative import of rice.

Mr. Dikko, a multimillionaire, has been accused by Major General Mohammed Buhari's military regime of having made a fortune out of illegal kickbacks for awarding contracts.

Hussein congratulates Reagan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a congratulatory cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan congratulating him and the American people in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on the occasion of the U.S. Independence Day which fell Wednesday.

In his cable King Hussein pointed out that the noble principles on which the American nation based its heritage are the subject of pride of all nations. These principles are represented in freedom, justice, equity and liberation from tyranny, to which all peoples are entitled, King Hussein said.

King Hussein added that these principles meet with the sublime values of Islam and of the Arab heritage.

His Majesty also wished President Reagan good health and happiness.

Arafat cancels visit to Jordan

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has cancelled a visit he was expected to pay to Jordan on Saturday to inaugurate meetings of the Higher Palestinian Education Council, a well-placed Palestinian official said here Thursday. The official did not explain the reason behind Mr. Arafat's decision.

Another Palestinian official here said Mr. Arafat "was not scheduled to visit Amman at all" and that reports of his plans to visit Jordan Saturday were "false".

Political observers here speculated that Mr. Arafat apparently cancelled his visit to Jordan, which would have coincided with the visit of French President Francois Mitterrand, "to avoid the embarrassment" of French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson declining to meet him. Mr. Cheysson will be accompanying President Mitterrand on the two-day official visit to Jordan beginning Monday.

A spokesman for the French embassy in Amman confirmed a French External Affairs Ministry announcement Thursday that Mr. Cheysson will visit Israel, and Syria after accompanying President Mitterrand to Jordan and Egypt.

The French foreign minister will meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Israel on Wednesday evening and spend the following day in Damascus.

Upon his arrival in Jordan, President Mitterrand will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Middle East issues and bilateral relations, and will later meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a brief stop in Cairo on his return to Paris.

Lebanese militias agree to release kidnap victims

BEIRUT (AP) — A committee representing Lebanon's principal civil war factions agreed Friday to release dozens of kidnap victims, as army engineer units cleared mines and unexploded shells from crossing points between east and west Beirut.

The mine-clearing sweeps delayed a plan to re-unite Beirut's mainly Christian east and mostly Muslim western sector. But the administration of President Amin Gemayel appeared confident that the Syrian-backed plan to curb Lebanon's civil war was working.

State and privately owned radio stations said the army's engineering units had cleared by midday Friday the explosives from the port crossing in the old commercial district of the capital (See page 2). Other units dismantled or blew up mines left behind by rival militiamen on two other crossings — Galerie Semaan and Tayyounah gateways.

Beirut International Airport, scheduled to re-open on Friday, was still shut down for the 156th day. The radios said the airport could open as early as next week. The army had recommended the airport remains closed until all roads to and from the facility were secured.

The port, also closed since last Feb. 6, was scheduled to open on Friday, but its re-activation was also delayed. Port Director Henry Pharoun ordered all employees to report to normal duty on Monday.

Meanwhile, a four-party security committee made up of representatives of warring militias as well as the Lebanese army, met at its headquarters in the mid-city horse race track and announced an agreement to release all civil war kidnap victims.

The meeting, attended by Education and Social Affairs Minister Selim Hoss and acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaff, agreed on the "zero hour" for the unconditional release of the kidnapped who are listed with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The statement did not give the date for freeing the hostages for fear such an announcement could disrupt the whole operation, the radios said.

The statement said Lebanese police would oversee the release in co-operation with the ICRC. The Red Cross had said earlier that its teams have visited "slightly above 100" people being held hostage by rival militias.

The number of kidnapped or

missing victims is believed to be much higher, but there was no exact figure.

The committee also appointed a follow-up team made up of police, representatives of the families of the kidnapped, Lebanese Red Cross, and civil defence volunteers to search for the missing.

As the security committee meeting was underway, families of kidnap victims set car tyres afire nearby and barricaded the western end of the museum crossing with large rocks for four hours, halting traffic on the only open gateway between east and west Beirut.

"Not a single shot has been fired on Beirut's fronts for two days and President Gemayel sees this as evidence that the main militia commands were genuinely co-operating with the army," said one administration official. He asked not to be identified.

Other sources said another security plan for the deployment of the army's 8th and 10th brigades in the Shouf and Aley mountains southeast of Beirut and to re-open the Beirut-Damascus highway was being prepared. The sources said the plan would be discussed in the next cabinet session on Wednesday.

Japanese tanker hit in apparent Iranian attack

BAHRATIN (R) — A Japanese-chartered tanker, hit by rockets in an apparent Iranian air attack Thursday, headed for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) port of Fujairah Friday after leaving the Gulf, shipping sources said.

The sources said the 122,202-ton Liberian-registered Primrose, carrying 1.5 million barrels of Saudi Arabian crude, was expected to anchor off Fujairah, south of the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf, for an inspection of damage.

The sources said a single plane, believed to be an F-4 Phantom, fired six rockets in two strafing runs within four minutes on the Primrose Thursday when it was due south of Iran's Lavan Island oil terminal and east of Qatar.

They said one rocket hit the engine room casing, another hit the deck and a third bounced over the side. It was not known what happened to the rest, fired on the second run.

Diplomats and shipping sources in the Gulf said it was likely that the Primrose, which sailed on under its own steam after the attack, was hit by an Iranian warplane in retaliation for recent Iraqi strikes on vessels using Iranian ports.

Japan has asked Iran to investigate whether the plane that hit the Primrose was Iranian, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Tokyo.

The spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said Shin Watanabe, director of the ministry's Middle Eastern and African Bureau, made the request in a meeting at the Foreign Ministry with First Secretary of the Iran embassy Mohsen Sharif Khodae.

Japan also extended the war

risk zone in the northern part of the Gulf for its seamen Friday.

A spokesman for the Japan seamen's union said the union and the Japanese shipowners association agreed to expand the war risk zone further southwards up to latitude 26.00 north between longitudes 52.54 and 54.00 east.

The zone had already been extended to north of latitude 26.33 north from the earlier 29.00 north on June 5.

Norwegian shipping sources said Friday that only small and medium-sized tankers can use Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal at the moment because of damage caused by an Iraqi air attack on June 24. (Iran confirms Kharg damaged, page 2)

Iran 'ready for offensive'

Meanwhile, leading Iranian clergyman-politician Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday Iran was ready to launch its next ground offensive against Iraq but left open the question of when the order would be given.

Mr. Rafsanjani denied reports of differences between Iranian military leaders or within the decision-making councils, saying they all followed revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

On attacks on shipping in the Gulf, he said, "either they (buyers) lift oil both from (Iran's) Kharg Island and Saudi Arabia or from neither one."

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis (parliament), made no direct reference to the attack on the Primrose.

But about Iraqi attacks on ships using Kharg Island oil terminal, he said that while Iran did not want a

crisis in the Gulf "of course we will take revenge."

In Baghdad, Iraqi official newsmen said Iran's long-expected offensive was now imminent and warned that Iraq would use sophisticated weapons so far unused in the 45-month-old Gulf war.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said in an editorial: "The Iranian rulers, who have been beating the drums of war for so long, seem to have completed their preparations to mount a new aggression against Iraq."

It also reiterated Iraq's threat to "destroy the Kharg Island 'at the proper time'."

In earlier statements, Iraq had said it would destroy the terminal if and when Iran launched its offensive.

Al Thawra, organ of the ruling Baath Party, warned in a similar article that "Iraq this time will use sophisticated weapons, unused so far, to crush the Iranian aggression."

Bahrain urges restraint

The Bahraini foreign minister was quoted Thursday as urging warring Iraq and Iran to desist from raiding commercial shipping in the Gulf region.

Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak told the London-based, Arabic-language magazine Al Hawadeth that the two belligerents should broaden the U.N.-brokered moratorium on civilian attacks to cover all shipping ports along the region.

Sheikh Mohammad called for a broader cease-fire under U.N. auspices, to cover not merely residential areas but oil and freight shipping ports throughout the Gulf region.



Francois Mitterrand

By Gavin Bell
Reuters

PARIS — President Francois Mitterrand will be seeking to bolster France's role as an even-handed broker in the Middle East conflict when he visits Amman next week for talks with King Hussein, a key figure in any future peace moves.

Diplomatic sources believe Mr. Mitterrand will be warmly received in Jordan following recent outspoken criticism of the United States by King Hussein and his appeal for greater involvement in peace efforts by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, including France.

But with the U.S. and Israel involved in national election campaigns, they believe the accent will be on laying the groundwork for future peace moves rather than formulating any specific new initiative.

The French socialist leader was widely regarded as a staunch ally of Israel before becoming president in May 1981, but has since assiduously adopted a more balanced approach.

In an address to the Israeli Knesset soon after being elected president, he said, the Palestinians should have a homeland and eventually a state of their own. At the same time he implicitly appealed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise the Jewish state.

French sources say government policy remains based on this dual principle, but are vague about how it can be made acceptable to the various parties to the conflict.

Franco-Egyptian initiative

Mr. Mitterrand's most notable initiative came in 1982 when France and Egypt presented a joint

plan to the Security Council calling for Palestinian self-determination, including the right to an independent state, and for mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

It was quickly followed by rival U.S. and Saudi proposals, but none of them found unanimous favour.

King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have meanwhile expressed readiness to resume talks on a plan for confederal ties between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Faced with this maze of failed peace efforts and the current stalemate, Mr. Mitterrand and King Hussein may now be looking towards the United Nations for active support, diplomats believe.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar raised this possibility last Wednesday when he

suggested a conference grouping the 15 Security Council members along with Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the PLO.

France's desire to nurture close relations with all sides as an impartial mediator is highlighted by Mr. Mitterrand's travel plans — and more especially by those of his External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson who is accompanying him.

The president is making a point of stopping over in Egypt for an airport meeting with President Hosni Mubarak on his way home. It will be the eighth time the two presidents have met.

Mr. Cheysson will meanwhile leave Cairo immediately for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Israel, followed by a 24-hour visit to Damascus.

Mr. Mitterrand's three-day visit beginning on Monday is his first to

Amman, although he has met King Hussein twice in Paris since becoming president.

Topics of discussion

While the Arab-Israeli dispute is expected to dominate the discussions in Amman, the Gulf war and the Lebanese conflict will also be high on the agenda, according to the sources.

France and Jordan are both strong backers of Iraq in its war with Iran, and are keen to see an end to the fighting.

Both sides are expected to welcome recent moves towards national reconciliation in Lebanon, where France maintains true observers in Beirut and a U.N. peacekeeping contingent in the south of the country.

Mr. Mitterrand's discussions with President Mubarak are likely

to include the conflict in Chad, where some 3,000 French troops are supporting the government of President Hissene Habre against Libyan-backed rebels.

Mr. Mitterrand and his wife are due to lunch with King Hussein and Queen Noor at the royal palace in Amman shortly after arriving in Jordan on Monday. The two leaders will then have private talks before attending a formal dinner.

On Tuesday the French president will make a sightseeing trip to Petra, by helicopter and then return to Amman for further discussions with King Hussein. A joint press conference is then scheduled before dinner.

Mr. Mitterrand and King Hussein will have a brief final meeting on Wednesday morning before the French president leaves for Cairo.

2 Home - Middle East news

Iran confirms Iraqis damaged Kharg terminal

TEHRAN (R) — Iran confirmed Thursday that its major oil export terminal at Kharg Island in the Gulf had been damaged in a recent Iraqi air attack.

But Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi, speaking at a press conference here, said Iranian oil exports had not been affected.

Mr. Gharazi said he would not raise the question of Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil installations at next week's Vienna meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

His was the first official Iranian confirmation that Kharg Island had been hit by the Iraqis. He was apparently referring to a raid on June 24 in which a Greek tanker, the Alexander the Great, was hit soon after loading oil at Kharg.

Diplomatic sources in Tehran said last week a jetty to the west of Kharg Island, which can accommodate tankers of up to 500,000 tons, was put out of operation by the Iraqi air raid.

were contracted to do on the complex. "This non-payment was not because of inability to pay," he said.

Sources in Tokyo said Wednesday Iran's interest payments, due in May, had apparently been delayed by a shortfall in Iranian oil revenue caused by Iraqi attacks on oil tankers around Kharg.

"The Japanese say they want to reduce and ultimately end their partnership by selling their share to Iran and we have agreed on condition Japan finishes the work... Since the beginning the Japanese have acted unjustly," Mr. Gharazi said.

Work on the 3.2 billion-dollar project, begun in 1973, was abandoned at the start of Gulf war.

Iraqi aircraft have bombed the complex several times to prevent work from resuming.



A young Lebanese, who lost his legs during the recent fighting in Beirut, watches a Lebanese army soldier directing barricade clearing operations along Beirut's Green Line Thursday (AP wirephoto)

Army knocks down Beirut barricades

BEIRUT (R) — For Lebanese Army Col. Jean Nassif it was a sudden change from war to diplomacy.

As the officer in charge of knocking down the barricades Thursday at Beirut's worst frontline flashpoint, he had to prove the fairness of Lebanon's newly "neutral" army to Christians and Muslims who had fought over the area until Wednesday, when troops took over under an all-party peace plan.

For months Col. Nassif had been the army's representative on a four-man ceasefire committee that tried and often failed to stop the fighting and shelling on Beirut's "green line" battlefield.

This spot beside St. Michael's Church on the edge of the southern suburbs was one of the worst trouble spots. It was here that the fighting began five months ago.

On Thursday Col. Nassif's job was to nunch the first of three new crossings through the lines to re-unite Beirut. "Wisdom, respect, flexibility and justice" to all were his guidelines from army commander General Michel Aoun.

But how could three army bulldozers simultaneously shove aside several huge earth barricades thrown up by both sides at

each end of a desolate, one kilometre stretch of No-Man's Land?

At the eastern end, three earthworks blocked the four-lane "Galerie Semaan" roadway leading out of the suburbs towards the heavily-defended Palace of President Amin Gemayel.

At the western end a single earthwork blocked the road beside the shell of St. Michael's Church on the edge of the shell-shattered suburbs.

At each end, unarmed fighters and officials of militias mingled with army officers and troops, watching expectantly for Col. Nassif's decision.

First, a giant bulldozer shoved aside the two farthest barricades at the Eastern end, leaving just one huge barricade at each end of the stretch of No-Man's Land.

Then the bulldozer waited near the last and biggest obstacle — a three-metre high, 50 metres wide earthwork — as another roared off to start work at the western end.

The fighting began at the western end of Feb. 2, when the Shi'ite militia "Amal" and Islamic Fundamentalist fighters of "Hizbullah" (the Party of God) seized St. Michael's Church from the army.

The suburbs nearby are a tragic moonscape of collapsed and shattered buildings. Smashed coffins that tumble from niches in a destroyed crypt beside the church bear further witness to the ferocity of the fighting.

"This is the most sensitive spot on the line and the one with the most barricades and destruction," said Amal official Dr. Ayoub Homayed, impatient after waiting several hours for the bulldozer to arrive.

"This crossing has to be cleared fast, but we've been waiting a long time."

Mr. Homayed waved back restless militiamen who minutes later raised a large banner that read, amid the scenes of total urban destruction, "All that you see about you is the work of U.S. imperialism and Israel."

As the bulldozer roared up, Koranic chants blared triumphantly from a loudspeaker rigged up by Amal fighters. Its recorded applause seemed to hail the victories of the opposition militias since February.

Finally, in a synchronised operation starting on the stroke of 1:00 pm (1000 GMT), the army's bulldozers began tackling the last giant earthworks at each end.

French aide starts contacts in Ankara

ANKARA (R) — A special envoy sent by French President Francois Mitterrand to help improve strained relations between Ankara and Paris began a week of talks here Friday by meeting a senior Foreign Ministry official.

Political ties have cooled markedly and trade has dropped in the past two years because Turkey believes France sympathises with the cause of Armenian guerrillas who have killed some 30 people, mostly Turks living abroad.

A spokesman for the French embassy here said former Ambassador Etienne Manach, who arrived in Ankara Thursday night,

Friday met Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Ercument Yavuzlar. He will see other government figures over the next week.

On arrival Thursday night, Mr. Manach told reporters: "I am concerned that Turkish-French relations are not what they should be. My wish is for our relations to develop rapidly... This is what President Mitterrand wants also."

He condemned Armenian attacks, but declined to elaborate on France's position on the Armenian issue until later in his visit.

Last May, Turkish officials cal-

led for a review of relations with France after French Minister Joseph Franceschi accused Turkey of "obliterating the historical reality of Armenia" by refusing to acknowledge that 1.5 million Armenians died in a "genocide" in Eastern Turkey in 1915.

Turkey strongly denies the genocide charge and rejects Armenian calls for it to acknowledge the killings and give reparations.

Ankara also demands that countries such as France where Armenian activists take place should move to track down the guerrillas and punish them severely.

Beirut Airport looks like destroyed base

BEIRUT (R) — Riddled with bullet holes and surrounded by the wreckage of war, Beirut International Airport does not look like an airport due to re-open.

Roofs of some buildings have collapsed. Twisted hulks of cars wrecked in the last bombardment still sit in piles of broken glass in the car park. Opposite stands the fortified entrance of the abandoned headquarters of the U.S. Marine contingent in the now-defunct Beirut Multi-national Force.

Within the perimeter, strengthened by barbed wire, concrete anti-tank blocks and earth barricades long since overgrown by weeds, lie the ruins of the Marines' Battalion Landing Team Headquarters where 241 servicemen died in a devastating truck bomb attack last October.

Just hours before planes were due to land after a record five-month closure, the scene was more like a deserted military base than most people's idea of Beirut International Airport.

Despite the wreckage of war, Lebanon's leaders insisted that the airport, closed for 150 days because militias bombarded it or threatened to do so, would re-

open Friday.

For the past five months, the Lebanese people have been told the airport might be opened within days.

Airport Catering Manager Ali Mallah, a Shi'ite Muslim, said this week: "Saint Thomas said don't believe it if you don't touch it, and I won't believe it unless I see a plane landing."

Passengers on the last flight to leave as Muslim militias swept into west Beirut on Feb. 6 said the Middle East Air Lines jet took off so fast that they barely had time to buckle their seatbelts.

But amidst the rubble, airport employees have busily been sweeping the sand off the runways, replacing runway lamps and testing passenger ramps and computer terminals. An extension to the passenger terminal is nearing completion.

Airport officials say the runways are in good shape and ready for business. Middle East Air Lines, the national carrier which said it lost \$250,000 each day it could not fly, even published schedules in Thursday's newspapers.

The government will use army helicopters to transport east Beirut's residents to the airport, in

southern suburbs that were headquarters for the Shi'ite Amal militia.

Gunmen have kidnapped residents on both sides, and many residents in the east still do not trust the army's Sixth Brigade to provide security along the often eerily-empty road to the airport.

During the past five months, the west Beirut brigade has refused to obey orders from the army command and its soldiers, wearing pictures of Shi'ite heroes around their necks, openly co-operated with Muslim militias. Most Christian soldiers left after the militias took over west Beirut in early February.

The militias have pledged to put down their arms and uniforms this week. The only sign of them Thursday was a tattered green Islamic flag outside the airport and the name of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party painted on a nearby wall.

A Sixth Brigade officer tried to reassure east Beirutis by saying the brigade would take orders from the army command, as required in a security plan put into effect this week, and the Christian soldiers would be returning to its ranks.

Mubarak to visit Yugoslavia in August

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will visit Yugoslavia next month to pursue a new Egyptian initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war working through the Non-Aligned Movement, officials said Thursday.

Osama Al Baz, director of Mr. Mubarak's political office and a key foreign affairs adviser, said Mr. Mubarak would go to Yugoslavia during the summer. Other officials later said the trip would be in August.

Egypt and Yugoslavia are founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement, to which both Iraq and Iran belong.

Mr. Baz told foreign journalists that Egypt's latest peace initiative, disclosed by Mr. Mubarak in a speech on June 24, would

achieve "tangible progress within eight weeks." He did not elaborate, speaking only of quiet diplomacy.

Mr. Baz said the coming exchange of ambassadors with Moscow was "a step towards normalising relations between Egypt and the USSR and should not be given further significance."

The last Soviet ambassador to Cairo was accused of fomenting trouble and expelled by the late President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Mr. Baz said the exchange of envoys would have "no bearing whatsoever on our relations with any other country," in an apparent reference to the United States, an ally and source of \$2.25 billion in civil and military aid annually.

He gave no date for the exchange, which press reports Wednesday said would take place in August.

Asked about Israel's seizure last week of a Lebanese passenger ship that was sailing from Cyprus to Lebanon, Mr. Baz called it "an act of piracy" that violated international law.

Mr. Baz also said French President Francois Mitterrand would discuss Middle East peace efforts with Mr. Mubarak during a planned stopover in Egypt next Wednesday, including the possible revival of a joint Franco-Egyptian peace plan.

"The plan is still valid. It can be re-activated at any time," Mr. Baz said. Proposed in 1982, it calls for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He gave no date for the exchange, which press reports Wednesday said would take place in August.

Australia contributes \$900,000 to UNRWA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Australian government has made a special contribution of \$900,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to help cover the expenses of urgent medical care needed for Palestinians in Lebanon.

A spokesman for UNRWA headquarters here said that the contribution is part of a grant totalling \$2.7 million which the Australian government has allocated for UNRWA and two other relief organisations operating in southern Lebanon.

Arab League announces committees meeting dates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Secretariat of the Arab League has announced the meeting dates of its three ministerial committees concerned with studying the issues on the agenda of the 13th Arab Summit scheduled to be held in Riyadh during the first half of November, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

The Gulf war follow-up committee, will meet on July 28 to discuss the Arab, Islamic and international resolutions on the Iran-Iraq war, and the efforts exerted to put an end to the 45-month-old conflict, Petra said.

The committee includes Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco and North Yemen.

The Arab League Charter and Joint Arab Action Committee will meet on July 30, to review the issues concerning the amendment of the League Charter and other laws related to it, including the economic and financial support for Lebanon, to help the war-torn country to overcome its crisis, and to draw up plans for a joint Arab information moves.

The same committee will assess the resolution adopted by the 11th Arab Summit held in Amman in 1980, to define the amount of each country's contribution to the Arab League budget, Petra added.

The Arab-Israeli conflict committee, scheduled to meet at the beginning of August, will discuss the Israeli project, opening a channel connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea and Arab-African relations.

Rifaat Al Assad issues denial of exile reports

GENEVA (R) — Syrian Vice-President Rifaat Al Assad Thursday issued a denial of reports that he had been exiled by his brother, President Hafez Al Assad, and said he was in Geneva for medical treatment.

A spokesman for Rifaat Al Assad, reading a prepared statement, said the vice-president would return to Syria when the medical treatment "which he undergoes from time to time in Europe" was concluded.

"Those who say that Rifaat Al Assad has been pushed out of the country and that he has been banned from returning and that there are security and political problems in Syria are making ill-intentioned statements not based on truth," he added.

Last Sunday the London Observer said President Assad had started a purge to re-inforce his authority by sending his brother and other top military officers into permanent or temporary exile abroad.

Well-informed Western diplomatic sources in Geneva said Vice-President Assad, who holds the rank of brigadier, and a 60-man Syrian delegation had installed themselves in Geneva's Hotel Du Rhone and two other hotels since their return from a visit to Moscow last month.

Reports of a power struggle between Mr. Rifaat Assad and some military commanders surfaced after President Assad fell ill late last year. He was in hospital with heart trouble for over two months but resumed full official duties in January.

Labour still leads Likud in Israeli election runup

TEL AVIV (R) — With General election day just 17 days away, Israel's opposition Labour Party is maintaining its early lead over the ruling Likud Bloc, according to a newspaper poll published Friday.

The independent daily Yediot Aharonot said a poll carried out earlier this week showed Labour would take 53 seats in the 120-member Knesset (parliament) compared with 38 for Likud.

Labour had the same lead in the paper's poll last month.

The newspaper Khadashot, which is strongly anti-Likud, reported that secret polls carried out by both the Likud and Labour showed the beginning of a slight rise in support for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing party.

The Likud poll showed it now would gain 38 seats compared to the 36 a few weeks ago, the paper said.

It said Labour Party leaders were worried that the undecided vote, last reported to be about 30 per cent, might be swinging in favour of the Likud.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:00	New Summary
MAIN CHANNEL	23:05	Classical Concert
14:30	14:30	Koran
14:30	14:30	Cartoons
15:00	15:00	Live transmission of Wimbledon Women's final singles tennis championship
17:45	17:45	Children Programme
18:10	18:10	Children Programme
18:30	18:30	A Documentary on Nature
18:50	18:50	Children Programme
19:20	19:20	Programme Review
19:30	19:30	Local News
20:00	20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	21:30	Arabic Film
23:00	23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	23:10	Film Continued
FOREIGN CHANNEL		
18:00	18:00	French Programme
19:00	19:00	News in French
19:30	19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	20:30	Country Diary of St. Edward's Lady
21:30	21:30	A Special Programme on President Francois Mitterrand
22:30	22:30	Saturday Variety Show
22:50	22:50	News in English
23:15	23:15	Feature film - Searchers
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 KHz. FM		
& partly on 9500 KHz. SW		
07:00	07:00	Light Music
07:30	07:30	Newsweek
08:00	08:00	Morning Show
08:30	08:30	News Summary
09:00	09:00	Morning Show
10:00	10:00	News Summary
11:00	11:00	News Summary
12:00	12:00	Pop Session
12:30	12:30	Pop Session
13:00	13:00	News Summary
13:30	13:30	Pop Session
14:00	14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	14:30	Jordan Weekly
15:00	15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	16:00	News Summary
16:30	16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	17:00	Special Feature
17:30	17:30	Music
18:00	18:00	News Summary
18:30	18:30	Top Twenty
19:00	19:00	News
19:30	19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	20:00	Good Old Day
20:30	20:30	Just A Minute
21:00	21:00	News Summary
21:30	21:30	Country Music
22:00	22:00	News Summary
22:30	22:30	Play of the Week

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of paintings by various Jordanian artists at Alia Art Gallery.

** "Le Carnaval De Nice" at the French Cultural Centre.

*** "Qui?" at the French Cultural Centre at 7:45 p.m.

FILM

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267

American Centre - 44371

British Council - 36147-8

French Cultural Centre - 37009

Goethe Institute - 41993

Spanish Cultural Centre - 34049

Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777

Husseini Youth City - 665195

Y.W.C.A. - 41793

Amman Municipal Library - 36111

University of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum. Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qat' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery. Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzeh, Jabal Leiwid. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum). Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

SPORTS CITY, AMMAN. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Amman International Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Golf Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Amman Tennis Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Swimming Club. Meetings every Thursday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Badminton Club. Meetings every Friday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Table Tennis Club. Meetings every Saturday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Chess Club. Meetings every Sunday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Archery Club. Meetings every Monday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Judo Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Karate Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Taekwondo Club. Meetings every Thursday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Kung Fu Club. Meetings every Friday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Jujitsu Club. Meetings every Saturday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Aikido Club. Meetings every Sunday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Hapkido Club. Meetings every Monday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Tai Chi Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Bagwado Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Hwa Rang Do Club. Meetings every Thursday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Kuk Sool Won Club. Meetings every Friday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Taekwon Do Club. Meetings every Saturday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Amman Judo Club. Meetings every Sunday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport, Tel. 031 33250, 53707, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

05:50 Cairo (MS)

06:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

06:30 Amman (RJ)

06:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

06:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

07:10 Kuwait (RJ)

07:25 Riyadh (RJ)

07:40 Jeddah (RJ)

07:55 Dhahran (RJ)

Sound, light spectacular brings Jerash to life

JERASH (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat inaugurated the "sound and light" spectacular at the Graeco-Roman city of Jerash Thursday evening.

The programme, organised by the Department of Antiquities, comprises a 50 minute information broadcast in Arabic, English, French and German to brief visitors on the history of the site and its importance. Floodlights have also been erected at the amphitheatres, the Forum and other monuments of interest enabling them to be viewed at night. The programme is being shown in Arabic on Thursdays, Fridays,

Sundays and Tuesdays and in English on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. during the month of July and entrance fees have been fixed at JD 1 per person.

The JD 390,000 project aims to exploit the archaeological sites of Jerash, attract local and foreign visitors to familiarise them with the civilisation and archaeological and tourist sites there and also to enliven the ancient city.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were a number of ministers, the programme's director, several other invited guests as well as members of the general public.

French cine show to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition entitled "Les Peintres Cinéastes" will be opened here Saturday at the French Cultural Centre by the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Antiquities, Abdullah 'Oweidat and the French Ambassador to Jordan Jacques de Sedouy.

The exhibition is being organised by the French Cultural Centre in Amman in co-operation with the French Ministry of External Relations, on the occasion of the visit of the French President Francois Mitterrand to Jordan.

The exhibition will display the work of five prominent French painters and movie picture artists, presenting simultaneously their pictorial productions and their cinematographic realisations.

On exhibit are 26 paintings, collages, lithographs and drawings representing the different French

art schools of these five artists. A selection of short and full length films will be presented, illustrating the artists' personal approach to cinematographical creation.

Dust storms close roads

AMMAN (Petra) — The road linking Huseiniyeh to Jurf Al Darwish and Ma'an, alongside the Desert Highway in the south of Jordan is closed because of dense dust and unclear vision, a Public Security Department spokesman said Friday.

The same official added that the road between Onaisa crossroads and Jurf Al Darwish is also impassable because of the dense dust.

Kaddoumi optimistic

(Continued from page 1)

Wazir welcomes moves

port of Tripoli last autumn and the current political situation in the area.

Mr. Kaddoumi's visit to Damascus and his meeting with President Assad is considered the most important development in Syrian-Palestinian relations since Mr. Arafat was forced by the Syrian-backed rebels to leave north Lebanon along with 4,000 fighters last December. The sources did not dismiss the possibility of a visit by Mr. Arafat to Damascus in the near future "if the on-going contacts succeeded in resolving the differences."

The current Syrian-Palestinian dialogue continued Friday as Mr. Kaddoumi met Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, the sources said.

Syria welcomes Fatch officials

In a related development, a Damascus-based PLO official told the Jordan Times Friday that the Syrians have expressed readiness to welcome all Fatch Central Committee members.

Mr. Saleh Ra'afat, member of the political bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said that "one of the most important results" of Mr. Kaddoumi's visit is that the Syrian government is ready to receive all Fatch Central Committee members including Khalil Al Wazir, the deputy commander of PLO forces.

But Mr. Ra'afat added that the Syrian attitude towards Mr. Arafat has not changed.

Mr. Arafat was expelled from Damascus in June 1983 after he accused Syria of instigating the mutiny among his Syrian and Lebanon-based Fatch forces. Mr. Arafat also accused the Syrians of trying to exert control over the PLO and to establish a Syrian-controlled substitute organisation. On their turn, the Syrians, highly critical of Mr. Arafat's policies since the departure of Palestinian forces from Beirut following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, denied the charges and ordered the PLO chairman out of the country.

The Syrian government also banned Mr. Wazir, who was in Tripoli at the same time, from entering any Syrian-controlled territories. But according to Mr. Ra'afat, the Syrian government has lifted the ban on Mr. Wazir, but the DFLP official did not give any specific reason for this change in the Syrian position.

CAEU reviews economic blueprint

AMMAN (Petra) — An extraordinary meeting of the permanent deputy representatives of the Arab member states of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) started here Thursday.

Participants discussed the recommendations drawn up during the last meeting of a working group, which consisted of member states representatives and leading Arab economists, in addition to representatives of the CAEU's general secretariat.

A number of issues related to the objectives enshrined within the Arab economic unity agreement and the practical ways of making the Arab Common Market more effective, in addition to



A meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity permanent deputy representatives Thursday discusses a working party report on the future pan-Arab policy blueprint (Petra photo)

the promotion of trade relations to further the ultimate objective of Arab economic integration were also discussed.

The deputies committee discussed the working group's recommendations in preparation for their submission to full ministerial committee level, which will meet

here Sunday at the CAEU's headquarters.

Addressing the participants, the CAEU secretary-general, Mr. Mahdi Al Obeidi, said that the plan will be used as a blueprint for the next stage of the organisation's work.

The report is aimed at implementing the goals and policies towards economic objectives, particularly in resistance to the Zionist threats which hang over our Arab Nation, Mr. Obeidi added.

"Supporting our economic institutions to stand up in the face of the imperialist challenges surrounding them is a duty which Arab countries should struggle for," Mr. Obeidi further added.

Meanwhile, the head of the Sudanese delegation and the chairman of the permanent deputy representatives' meeting, Abdullah Al Habbat, expressed the hope that the participants will arrive at recommendations capable of putting the Arab economic agreement into operation and to enable the CAEU's member states to overcome the difficulties and hardships facing the implementation of these CAEU's decisions.

At the end of the meeting, head of the Syrian delegation Sa'id Abu Hala was elected rapporteur.

Capital draws up list for service priorities

AMMAN (Petra) — Mayor of Amman Abdul Ra'of Al Rawabdeh said that the Amman Municipality has drawn up a list of priorities for future services to be provided in the capital taking into consideration the comprehensive distribution of these services to all areas.

Speaking at a meeting with the consultative committee from the Yarmouk area of the capital, which includes Jabal Ashrafiah, Wehdah, Sh'elieh and Nahariah, Mr. Rawabdeh said that the provision of services to citizens requires joint involvement between the municipality and citizens. He pointed out that the municipality utilises the awareness and co-operation of citizens in carrying out its tasks.

The meeting included a dialogue with the committee's members on problems in the Yarmouk area and demands for establishing public gardens, pavements and street lighting.

The municipality will build two public gardens, the first to be built on a five-dunum area in Wehdah, while the second will be a 12-

dunum garden to be built in the Ashrafieh area, Mr. Rawabdeh added. He also said that a tender will be floated next week to build a bridge and develop the street linking Al Muhajreen area with Jordan Television area to be financed by World Bank money.

Referring to scrap yards in the area, the mayor pointed out that an defence order, issued by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, has requested the removal of these scrap yards to other areas by the end of this month.

Regarding the animal livestock market in Al Quesma area, Mr. Rawabdeh said that negotiations with the World Bank are underway for the financing of a \$15 million integral project on a 500-dunum area to include an animal livestock market, a slaughter house and a market place.

If this project is implemented, the mayor said, the present animal livestock market will be changed into a sport city to serve the east of Amman.

Attending the meeting were a number of municipality officials.

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Francois Mitterrand's state visit to Jordan

The French embassy in Amman and the French Cultural Centre will hold an

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Camps body denounces cuts as 'inhuman, immoral'

Refugees slam UNRWA move to axe food rations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A general committee for Palestine refugee camps here has denounced as "inhuman and immoral" a decision by UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) to stop issuing monthly food rations to Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon.

Palestine refugees who thought it was a temporary measure aimed at aiding the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon who had lost everything as a result of the Israeli invasion.

Later, the refugees discovered that it was not a temporary measure and that the agency would not resume the distribution of food rations to them unless it received sufficient funds to meet its budget deficit.

The agency has set an order of priority for the provision of its services. Education is the first priority, health services come second, with relief services third.

Government reaction

The first reaction to this decision came from the Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud, who expressed the Jordanian government's dissatisfaction at the UNRWA decision to phase out food rations to the Palestinian refugees in South Lebanon.

In a statement to Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper, Mr. Mahmoud said Jordan has no formal knowledge of the decision, which, if implemented, will aggravate the bad conditions already affecting the refugees in South Lebanon.

Mr. Mahmoud expressed hope that agency officials would reconsider such a decision, if it is true, because the Palestinian refugees in South Lebanon are in need of every kind of aid and support, Mr. Mahmoud said.

Meanwhile, intensive contacts between various government officials, representatives of the Palestinian refugees, and Mr. Halqvist took place here Wednesday.

The committee sent a cable to UNRWA's Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck and the UNRWA director in Jordan, Per Olof Hallqvist expressing dismay at the reported UNRWA decision directed, as they said, against helpless people who have no means of making their own living. The refugees in Lebanon are still being exposed to all kinds of intimidation, killing, and persecution, the cable said.

Signatories of the cable described the bid by the agency as a continuation of the attempt to weaken the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their determination to adhere to their legitimate rights.

The committee appealed to Mr. Rydbeck to reconsider his decision and to continue to provide the refugees in Lebanon with the necessary services to help them overcome the ordeal they have been exposed to as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

The committee, also expressed its total support and solidarity with the just demands of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Mr. Rydbeck had decided to stop food rations to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan, the West Bank, Syria and Gaza Strip in Aug. 1982, while refugees in South Lebanon continued to receive food rations in view of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon at that time.

The commissioner-general's decision was accepted then by the

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Cereal production talks slated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Arab conference on cereal production will open in Amman on July 16 under royal patronage.

The conference, which is being organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Supply, aims at formulating a joint Arab plan to increase food production, with particular emphasis on cereals, in a bid to help achieve food security.

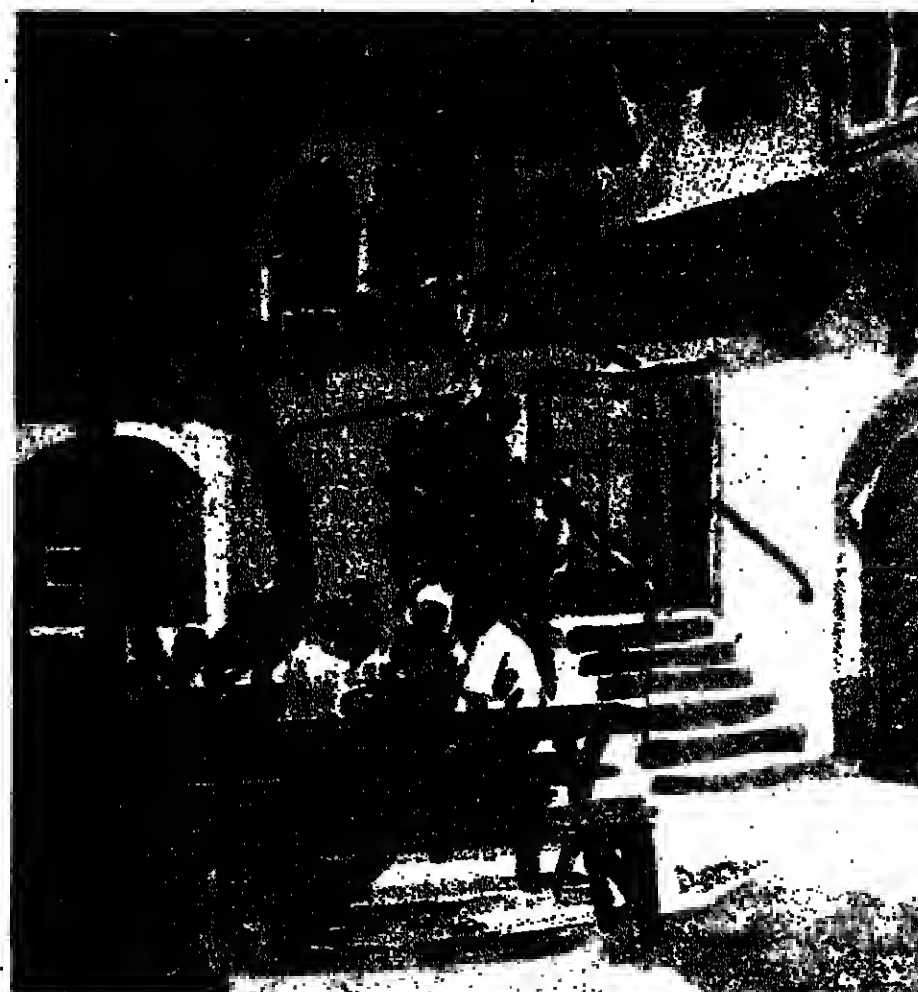
The plan will not only deal with production, but also ways of storing, processing and marketing

cereals produced in the Arab World, according to an official at the Ministry of Supply.

The plan will also address itself to finding a pan-Arab strategy for developing cereal production based on modern technological methods, the spokesman added.

Several working papers on the production, consumption and marketing of cereals will be reviewed by delegates representing most Arab states.

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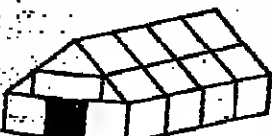
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday Al Ra'i: Practical step needed

THE AGGRESSIVE practices by the Israeli authorities against residents of Dheishah refugee camp are not but a new chapter in the Israeli plan aimed at evicting the steadfast people of the West Bank. Another chapter of this plan is the large settlement campaign which is going afoot with the aim of Judaizing the occupied West Bank.

The events in Dheishah camp are not emergency or exceptional ones but are planned for and implemented in accordance with a policy drawn up and executed by the Israeli authorities step by step. If the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories have been confronting this policy with the limited resources available to them, this confrontation alone can not put an end to that wicked policy. Therefore Arabs should do something to curb this policy, even if it necessitates raising it again at the United Nations, regardless of the fact that they have raised it more than once at the U.N. and failed to attain something tangible due to the U.S. veto and the arrogant disregard by Israel of U.N. resolutions.

If Arabs are really serious in defending the residents of the occupied Arab territories, they have nothing except living up to the requirements of challenges, which in turn can not be achieved except through secured solidarity and self-power.

Otherwise, the condemnations and denunciations by the Arabs, however they are worded, will do nothing to liberate the people from occupation and will not relieve them from the responsibility towards their steadfast people.

Al Dustour: U.N. effort neutralised

THE HOPES expressed by the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar in his press conference Thursday, with regard to negotiations on the Middle East likely to start by the end of the current year is some other diplomatic way for saying that his recent mission in the Middle East has reached a semi-deadlock. It was evident from the very beginning that Israel's rejection of holding an international peace conference will bring the efforts of the U.N. secretary general to such a result. The United States, which has been acting as the only party capable of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict is totally biased towards Israel. This not only freezes the question but also rules out U.S. credibility as a neutral mediator and obstructs all international efforts to move the question out of the deadlock.

The U.N. secretary-general's tour in the area aimed at convincing all parties concerned that the only way out of the current predicament is to refer the question to the whole international community, where the five great states and all parties to the conflict can take part. Yet his efforts did not result in achieving the sought goals. Therefore, the possibility of raising the question at the U.N. Security Council might be of use. This possibility poses many questions new the Arab stand and how it should be.

The current Arab situation is not liable to lever the situation out of its present hog. Consequently, a serious Arab move should be pursued with a view to crystallising a clear-cut position capable of dealing with new developments in accordance with a strategy to be agreed upon.

Such a stand can not be achieved without participation by the three Arab concerned parties, namely Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians, in the dialogue.

Thursday Al Ra'i: Threaten to Lebanon security plan

ISRAEL HAS revealed its criminal intentions which are designed to obstruct the implementation of the Lebanese government's security plan in statements issued in occupied Jerusalem accusing the Beirut government of overlooking security arrangements in the South when drawing a security plan for Beirut.

An Israeli official spokesman said that the security situation in the South is bound to affect security throughout Lebanon. This means that Israel is asking the Lebanese government to make arrangements for protecting its occupation troops in southern Lebanon from resistance attacks so that security can be restored to the region. Israel is thus revealing its intention of staying permanently in southern Lebanon or instituting a puppet secessionist government in the South to serve as a buffer state and so protect itself from resistance activity. The Israelis might also follow up these measures by trying to stir up trouble for the Lebanese government in Beirut and other areas of Lebanon to take its mind off the South and so perpetuate Zionist occupation of that territory.

Needless to say, the Lebanese government realises the sort of blackmail the Israelis are resorting to in their dealings with Lebanon. It also realises the responsibility of working towards bringing about total liberation of occupied land from Israeli occupation, and we have no doubt that the Karami government will work relentlessly towards achieving that goal.

For the Lebanese people we say that they have to stand firmly behind their government and support its plans for restoring stability and peace and for liberating the southern parts of their country from Israeli occupation.

Sawt Al Shaab: War-stricken economy

ISRAEL NOW LIVES through a choking economic crisis despite the billions of American dollars that pour into its treasury in the form of loans, grants or otherwise. We have no doubt that Israel's occupation of Lebanon, which costs nearly a million dollars a day, and its continued occupation of the West Bank, the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip, its building of settlements on Arab territory and the vast amounts of money spent on security are the main reasons behind the exacerbated economic crisis.

Recent statistics reveal that nearly three billion dollars have been spent on settlement projects and a similar amount was spent on purchasing weapons to maintain occupation of Arab land. Rising unemployment, soaring inflation and growing industrial trouble accompanied with strikes in almost every sector are a direct consequence of Israel's aggressive policies, which are sapping the Israeli economy and weakening the Israeli infrastructure. The continuous fall in the value of Israel's currency led to a rise in the cost of living, and rampant inflation has brought about social unrest and labour strikes everywhere.

The successive Israeli governments have all failed to stop the downward trend in the economy, simply because these governments have based their strategy on war, expansion and aggression. Sooner or later Israel will have to face not only economic breakdown but also a social and political collapse which would lead to total anarchy.

Lebanese 'disappeared': A living tragedy

By Tod Robberson

Reuter

BEIRUT — Ratiba Feres and her only son, 21-year-old Ali Hussein, were busy cleaning their West Beirut house on Sept. 14, 1982 when militiamen knocked at the door and asked the young man to step outside for questioning.

That was the last time Mrs. Feres saw her son, she like hundreds of West Beirut Muslims had been chosen at random as a hostage of East Beirut's mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia. Ali Hussein is one of thousands of Lebanese males, Christian and Muslim alike, who have been kidnapped since the Lebanese civil war began in 1975.

Their relatives are becoming increasingly angry over their plight but say their continual pleas to militias and politicians fall on

deaf ears.

In East Beirut, Christian Maroun Abu Khaled flips through his telephone book, displaying the hundreds of contacts he has made trying to find out if his 22-year-old son, Antoine, is still alive.

Antoine and 18 other men and boys were kidnapped from a mountain village by Druze-Muslim militiamen late last year. There has been no trace of them since. "I've done nothing but look for him ever since he disappeared," Abu Khaled says as he fumbles with a picture of Antoine. "He's all I have, I don't have any other children."

"All we feel at this point is anger, rage, pain and frustration," says a Christian woman who uses a pseudonym, Vera Nasr, for fear of jeopardising the search for her brother. She pounds her fist on a

table as she recalls her brother's kidnapping three months ago by a West Beirut militia.

Miss Nasr says she has heard no news of her brother, not even whether he is alive or dead, since he disappeared.

Christian and Muslim alike, these and dozens of other relatives plead daily to militia leaders, politicians, journalists or anyone else who will listen in hope of getting their kidnapped fathers, sons or brothers released.

One mediator between the militias says the vicious cycle of kidnappings and counter-kidnappings has become a source of increasing embarrassment for politicians, "a terrible mess."

The kidnappings date from the beginning of Lebanon's nine-year-old civil war, says Jean Ghanem, who speaks for the "Leb-

anese Forces" on kidnapping matters.

Mr. Ghanem estimates that his and the Muslim militias have each taken 1,500 hostages since the summer of 1982 and concedes that "most of those people no longer exist."

Michel Amiguet, chief delegate of the International Red Cross in Lebanon, says his delegates have been allowed to visit little more than 200 hostages on both sides of the divided city and is convinced many more are being held.

Mr. Amiguet says that unless the militias increase Red Cross access to the hostages, the relief organisation will withdraw from being the only link between hostages and their relatives.

His threat adds to the relatives' sense of desperation, says Miss Nasr. She and others warn they

might resort to more violent methods if there are no signs of progress.

In recent weeks, relatives of the hostages have organised sit-ins, burned tyres in the streets, screamed insults at politicians and thrown stones at cars of cabinet ministers to press home their sense of outrage.

"It's good that people are getting angry," says Miss Nasr, "because anger gets you somewhere, complaints don't."

"These relatives are waiting. They are desperate to know something, anything about the hostages," says Jamileh Khadib, spokeswoman for a non-partisan lobbying group.

Ms. Khadib says their desperation has made them easy prey for extortionists, who persuade people to pay large amounts of

money by offering the hope of

contact with a missing relative.

"You would be willing to pay anything if you really believe a person can help you," says Ratiba Feres, who says she has paid 2,500 Lebanese pounds (\$400) to people who have invariably disappeared with the money.

The militia leaders themselves offer little hope. Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite Muslim "Amal" militia, last week offered to allow relatives to visit hostages under his militia's control, but several Christians told Reuters they were too afraid of being kidnapped themselves during visits.

And Mr. Ghanem says relatives seeking his help often are turned away disappointed. "I'm not trying to give hope to these people, because it would only increase the deception," he said.

West offers Moscow pragmatic long-term relations

By Sidney Weiland

Reuter

LONDON — Looking beyond current tensions and hoping to nudge Moscow back into arms negotiations soon, Western leaders are offering a long-term East-West relationship based on pragmatic realities.

The groundwork for this gradually evolving policy is being laid in the expectation that the Kremlin will resume serious arms negotiations after November's U.S. presidential election and that it may agree to preliminary talks even earlier.

The new-style opening to the East, despite a deep freeze in relations, has been endorsed by all 16 NATO governments but some are pushing it more than others. For President Reagan, it means a marked change in tone and emphasis.

Last week, in what was widely seen as a misfired attempt to call Mr. Reagan's bluff, Moscow proposed talks on space weapons in Vienna in September. The White House responded within hours,

accepting the offer while suggesting a broader arms agenda.

The quick reaction ties in with an increasingly concerted NATO policy — "to build on areas of common interest."

Western officials say the softer-voiced approach looks for both short-term and long-term gains: resumed arms talks early in 1985, if not sooner, and the beginnings of a broader dialogue that might lead to a more mature and businesslike relationship.

Some Western politicians, despairing of the aged hardline politico led by President Konstantin Chernenko, 72, are beginning to look towards a younger generation in Moscow.

Their interest was aired last week in a reasoned assessment of Soviet intentions by Michael Heseltine, Britain's defence secretary. "We must seek to create a relationship with the emerging generations," he declared.

Mr. Heseltine called for greater mutual understanding based on credible defence, and recognition of the Soviet Union as a "military superpower... with which we have

to do business."

"Mr. Reagan has toned down his tough anti-Communist rhetoric but has made a new relationship conditional on what he calls realism, U.S. military strength, and dialogue."

Last week, he offered the Soviet Union negotiations on a 16-point agenda of joint projects ranging from the opening of new consulates to the swapping of know-how on permafrost.

But his statement was larded with highly-dramatised sharp criticism of the Soviet Union on human rights, Afghanistan and other issues.

Western diplomats said the ambivalence reflected a Washington debate on how far West should go in trying to revive arms negotiations broken off by Moscow last November.

Mr. Reagan spoke before the Kremlin made its offer last Friday to discuss the demilitarisation of outer space.

U.S. and other Western officials hope the offer can be widened for talks to begin in September not only on space weapons but on str-

ategic and medium-range nuclear missiles — as a "face-saving" way of easing Moscow back into the arms debate.

The Soviet Union has so far rejected any linkage between space and nuclear weapons, and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko called the U.S. counter-offer a "deception which is obviously intended to catch electoral votes."

The White House has taken an upbeat line on the Vienna meeting, saying categorically that U.S. officials "will be there" in September. It has meanwhile launched discreet contacts with Moscow to promote a broad-based arms control agenda.

West Germany has played a major role in helping to edge Mr. Reagan towards the West's declared aim of "constructive dialogue." Mr. Reagan has dropped his preconditions for a summit and now says he will "meet and talk any time" with Mr. Chernenko.

The summit bid was brushed aside by Moscow as a "political masquerade" and a "gimmick" in the U.S. election.

Since last year, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, another hardliner on Communism, has also moderated her views, calling for the opening up of new channels to Moscow.

Britain's Lord Carrington, a former foreign secretary who is credited in part for Mrs. Thatcher's "conversion", took over last week as secretary general of the 16-nation NATO alliance.

He has urged continuing contacts with Moscow on a broad front and has decreed "megapone diplomacy", an allusion to the "evil empire" and other rhetorical tags used by Mr. Reagan to describe Soviet policy in the past.

Lord Carrington believes the West should seize every opportunity to pursue quiet diplomacy with Moscow.

Lord Carrington's predecessor at NATO, Joseph Luns of the Netherlands, has warned that persistent Western overtures, in the face of persistent Soviet rebuffs, "can be very dangerous."

It is a view shared by many U.S. and some West European officials

who see no sign of a shift in Soviet

policy.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, after talks in Moscow this week, said Mr. Gromyko's reaction when urged to resume arms talks was "very negative and illogical."

British officials called the meeting "arid", a description used also when the West German, Italian and Spanish foreign ministers visited Moscow earlier this spring.

French diplomats accompanying President Francois Mitterrand to Moscow last month said they detected "no trace of any change" in the Kremlin's tough stance on arms and other issues.

But the NATO consensus is that, even if there are no immediate results, the West must go on trying.

Some Western diplomats say Moscow's offer to meet in Vienna may mean the Kremlin thinks Mr. Reagan is sure to win a second term, and that it may be better to talk soon rather than wait for the U.S. election. This is a theory that is still to be tested.



Reagan campaign free from controversy

By Michael Gailb

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Buoyed by polls showing Ronald Reagan well ahead of his likely opponent Walter Mondale, White House aides foresee a re-election campaign in which the president can be sheltered from serious controversy.

Their optimism rests partly on a calculated strategy of deferring partisan clashes until next year on such emotional domestic issues as old age pension reform and taxes.

Mr. Reagan's position is also helped by continued divisions within the Democratic Party as Mr. Mondale, all but assured of nomination at a party convention in San Francisco this month, tries to unify the party under his banner.

But it is foreign policy, long seen as Mr. Reagan's political Achilles heel, that has generated new optimism among the president's campaign organisers.

In a major policy change, the U.S. said recently it was dropping its opposition to talks with the Soviet Union on controlling space weapons.

It also expressed a hope arrangements could be discussed for resuming nuclear arms control talks, abandoned by Moscow last year after cruise and Pershing missiles were deployed by NATO in Western Europe.

The Soviet Union had earlier called for talks to bar all space weapons, including anti-satellite weapons and the so-called Star

Wars anti-missile defence system that Mr. Reagan wants the U.S. to build.

Washington's new stance is likely to undermine a major attempt by Mr. Reagan's opponents to stop his re-election on Nov. 6 by portraying him as a trigger-happy leader who is not interested in arms reductions.

Other foreign policy issues have also lost their significance. At the start of the year there was the prospect of continued U.S. military involvement in Lebanon, where 241 servicemen died in one terror-bomb incident. This was made worse by persistent public opinion poll findings that Mr. Reagan might be leading the country towards war.

With U.S. forces withdrawn from Lebanon, Central America remains a concern for Reagan strategists, but it is not considered such a worry.

"It never was the problem Lebanon was," one official said. "There is more tolerance for what we do in our hemisphere."

Moreover, widely publicised manoeuvres that put thousands of U.S. troops in Honduras and the Caribbean over the past year will not be repeated between now and the Nov. 6 election.

With foreign policy issues set aside, Mr. Reagan's strategists are planning ways to avoid trouble on domestic matters.

Action on such explosive issues as tax reform and possible revamping of the popular but costly

social security old-age programme is being postponed until after the election, even though there is urgent need to reduce record-high budget deficits.

"We learned a powerful lesson with social security in 1982," just before the mid-term elections where, Mr. Reagan's Republicans lost strength, one top White House adviser said.

"We tried to be straightforward and the Democrats based us over the head" with public fears of losing old-age benefits.

A bipartisan commission ultimately found a way to shore up the financially troubled social security system but a second Reagan administration would have to address the issue again.

One issue from which Mr. Reagan cannot escape attack is the 200-billion-dollar budget deficit and its potentially inflationary effect on interest rates.

There, the White House has taken an initiative by agreeing to modest budget cuts this year without saying how it would follow up next year and beyond.

Tax policy follows the same pattern. A treasury study on tax reform will not be issued until after the election.

Instead, Mr. Reagan will lace his campaign speeches with vague promises to simplify the tax system and make it more equitable.

Aides say Mr. Reagan's campaign style will combine glittering out-of-town appearances, such as his ceremonial opening of the

Olympic Games in Los Angeles on July 28, with White House events tailored for the evening television news shows.

He will also compete hard for the traditionally Democratic blue-collar vote, which gave him an unusually high 43 per cent support against Jimmy Carter in 1980 and could help him again.

Despite his current popularity poll advantage, Reagan aides fear over-confidence and are aware of possible pitfalls.

Anger over his civil rights, environmental and military buildup policies, plus his alleged insensitivity on women's issues, could bring out droves of anti-Reagan special interest groups and minorities such as blacks, women and peace activists — if the Democrats can unite and mobilise these groups.

Both Mr. Reagan strategists and Democratic Party analysts expect the 1984 presidential election, like other recent ones, to be decided by voting in a few major states such as California, Texas, Florida, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan.

Mr. Reagan's advisers feel California and Florida are reasonably secure for their side, but say they must win at least three of the remaining key states.

Those races are considered close at the moment and continued high unemployment in the manufacturing industries could hurt the president in several of them.

Mondale has invited pressure for woman as vice president

By Michael Conlon

Reuter

NORTH OAKS, Minnesota — Walter Mondale is under growing pressure to have a woman as his running mate for the presidency, but it was the former vice president himself who encouraged various groups to push for such a ticket.

It is largely because of this that women's groups, labour leaders, politicians and others are clamouring for a woman Democratic vice presidential candidate.

The result, in the last fortnight before the party convenes its nominating convention in San Francisco on July 16, is more pressure than a major party candidate in the United States has ever faced on the subject.

However, Mr. Mondale still seems to feel he can pick his running mate on the basis of qualifications alone and survive the wounded expectations if his choice turns out to be a man.

On Monday he interviewed Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro of New York at his home in this Minneapolis suburb and said she was clearly a contender. He has already discussed the job with San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein and was due to do the same with Kentucky Governor Martha Layne Collins on Friday.

From the beginning of his campaign until now, when he appears to have the presidential nomination within reach, Mr. Mondale has insisted he would consider all comers for the number two spot on the ticket, including women.

Pressure groups, especially those Mr. Mondale asked for help in the campaign, are now trying to collect on his promise.

Of Mr. Mondale's Democratic rivals, only black Baptist preacher Jesse Jackson has said flatly that, if nominated, he would name a woman as his running mate.

Mr. Mondale and his aides insist that pressure on the woman's issue, which has intensified in recent days, is neither inordinate nor unexpected.

But it now emanates from such forces as Mr. Jackson, the National Organisation for Women and the 1.3 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

When Mr. Mondale spoke to the country's largest teachers' union on Monday, he was greeted with thousands of lapel buttons on delegates urging him to choose the union's president, a black woman, as his vice presidential candidate.

Half of the 3,933 delegates to the party's nominating convention will be women.

An opinion poll last October



Walter Mondale projected that 66 per cent of all voters thought the time had come for a woman vice president.

With current polls showing Mr. Mondale far behind President Reagan in voter popularity, and with women making up nearly 53 per cent of the electorate, there is another layer of pressure on Mr. Mondale.

There could also be potential risks involved in the choice of a woman running mate. Skeptics might argue that there is no woman experienced or well enough known to fill the bill and Mr. Mondale could leave himself open to charges of political expedience and pandering to some of the special interest groups he courted in his quest for the nomination.

However, a woman as vice presidential candidate could help energise the Mondale campaign.

Republican Senator Robert Dole of Kansas recently suggested that voters might become so taken with a female running mate that they would forget Mr. Mondale was heading the ticket.

After his meeting with Ms. Ferraro, Mr. Mondale brushed aside suggestions that he might be forced into choosing a woman.

"I'm proud of the fact that I've opened up an area that has never been opened before," Mr. Mondale said. "It's a natural that when once that happens people will be pressing for candidates."

"That happens in every other area of American life. Dealing with pressure is basically what a public leader does. But it's not going to change my commitment to pick the best possible person."

Mr. Mondale added that all the pressure boils down to politics and is descending on him "about on schedule."

For Mr. Mondale, however, there is another factor guiding his eventual decision on a running mate.

Many observers believe that as a former vice president who took the job actively and seriously, he is searching first of all for someone who will do the same — be it a man or a woman.

Study shows American forest industry has a bright future

By Boris Weintraub

WASHINGTON — And now for some good news: There is one basic industry in the United States for which the long-term future is bright.

That is the forest products industry.

A recent study of wood use by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) concluded that, contrary to long-time predictions of scarcity, national timber supplies will be sufficient to meet domestic demand in the foreseeable future.

What's more, the study found that, given improvements in harvesting technology and better management of timberlands, the forest products industry has major opportunities to expand exports to the point where the United States would no longer be a net importer of wood products.

And the study noted that this could occur without significant environmental damage and without major increases in the cutting of trees on public lands, by concentrating on timber production on private lands.

Lone bright spot

"If you look at the range of basic industries in this country, if you look at steel, automobiles, mining, the wood-using industry is perhaps the only one that has a bright future," says James W. Curran, who directed the OTA study.

The United States consumes about a fourth of total world wood production, far more than any other nation. That wood goes into the two basic sections of the industry: solid wood, used primarily for construction, furniture, and a host of smaller products from signs to coffins; and pulp and paper products.

But the United States is also the world's largest industrial source of forest products. The OTA found that American timber harvests would increase over the next three decades, saying that better harvesting and processing, such as

making use of defective wood now left on the site, and better management, such as fertilization and thinning, would help increase the timber supply.

In contrast, the other major wood-producing areas — Japan, Canada, the Soviet Union, and Western Europe — face dwindling supplies, difficulties in bringing timber to market, and climates that limit their ability to meet the expected 50 per cent increase in world demand for forest products by the year 2000.

The biggest problem facing the American industry may be that it owns only 14 per cent of the nation's timberlands. About 28 per cent is publicly owned, including the 89 million acres in the national forest system, some of which may be commercially logged.

Small private owners

The remaining 58 per cent is privately owned outside the industry, and holds the highest potential for increased production. Much of that land is in small tracts of 100 acres or less, and the typical landowner bought it for reasons other than timber production: farming, recreation, or investment potential. This aspect of the report has drawn fire from the National Forest Products Association, an industry federation, which is less optimistic.

"We recognise the opportunities, but OTA doesn't deal with the realities," says William J. Lange, the NFPA's manager of resource planning. "These lands aren't managed as well, and the report assumes a huge investment will be made that isn't being made."

Educating small landowners about the potential of their timberland could pay dividends, however.

"We find that once they know they can manage their land better, harvest a few trees, and pay their taxes or send their kid to college with the income, they do pretty well," says Larry Tombaugh, chairman of the forestry dep-

artment at Michigan State University and head of a panel of experts that advised the OTA study team.

Mr. Tombaugh also is optimistic about the environmental prospects of increased production. With environmental awareness and careful management of forest lands, he says, "We can have our cake and eat it, too."

Environmentalists aren't so sure. Peter C. Kirby, director of forest management programmes for the Wilderness Society and a member of the OTA panel, agrees with the report's emphasis on private lands, but cautions that private timber harvesters must meet environmental concerns, as do those who cut timber on public lands.

Striking a bargain

"Many companies enter into cooperative relationships with private landowners, and much will depend on the environmental attitudes of the people they contract with," he says. "I'm talking about providing streamside buffers, protecting species diversity, and so on."

Assuming such concerns can be met, increases in world demand in both industrialised and developing nations offer major prospects. The United States exported \$7.3 billion worth of forest products in 1982, and OTA expects that to increase. So do industry observers.

"The United States is becoming more competitive each year," says John V. Ward, director of international trade for the NFPA, whose business card is printed in both English and Japanese.

Mr. Ward admits that American producers are still oriented to the domestic market. But he adds that export figures — for lumber, plywood, hardwood veneer — have markedly increased in the last decade.

"We think the potential is very good to double the volume of our exports over the next 10 years," he says. — National Geographic feature.



Flery rain from a torch dangling from a helicopter ignites the remaining wood on a portion of cleared land in Oregon's Willamette National Forest. This "prescribed burn," planned and supervised by the

U.S. Forest Service, is supposed to prepare the cut-over area for replanting with sun-loving Douglas fir. Some foresters believe such procedures can increase the productivity of timberlands.

Marine swindlers are the new Gulf pirates

By Hamza Hendawi

Reuter

BAHRAIN — Piracy is alive and thriving on the "Pirate Coast" of old, with millions of dollars worth of cargo lost every year in the Gulf.

The successors to the sword-wielding buccaneers who plundered wooden dhows in bygone eras are swindlers who cash in on the gullibility of some Gulf Arab businessmen and the huge flow of imports to the oil-rich Gulf states.

The biggest problem is that of crooked foreign shipowners who divert Gulf-bound cargoes to other ports, sell them and fabricate fires at sea to claim insurance or declare themselves bankrupt, officials in Gulf states say.

There have also been cases of ships transferring cargoes at sea and of crews pilfering large amounts of goods.

Many Gulf businessmen, inexperienced in dealing with their new-found wealth, also fall victim to trade swindles which often leave them in deep financial trouble, the officials say.

The businessmen are often lured into such deals but offers of high quality goods at low prices. Typical of the "pirates" are foreign salesmen who tour the region clinching deals which never materialise.

Businessmen have paid for goods which were found on arrival to be of inferior quality or lacking vital parts. The sellers then demand extra cash for the missing parts.

The officials said unscrupulous foreign traders appeared to concentrate on the Gulf because the huge amount of imports to the region make their frauds easier to get away with.

The six members of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait — together imported goods worth \$53 billion in 1981. The figure is estimated to have dropped to around \$45 bil-

lion last year due to lower oil income.

A group of Bahraini businessmen recently received containers of wood waste instead of a shipment of plywood. Buyers in the UAE have received crates of sawdust instead of consumer goods.

The Arab Gulf Chamber of Commerce said last month that the transport of goods to and from the Gulf "is being increasingly subjected to piracy and marine fraud."

The chamber presented member-states — the six GCC countries plus Iraq — with a paper in which it cited various forms of fraud to which Gulf businessmen have recently fallen victim.

"Ship owners resort to loading goods and selling them at another port. After the sale, fire is fabricated and the carrier company declared bankrupt," it said.

Saudi Trade Minister Suleiman Abdulaziz Suleiman said last week his ministry would give guidance to businessmen who were swindled. He told the newspaper Al Riyadh that businessmen should question firms they intended to deal with and make inquiries with banks, foreign trade missions and his ministry.

Gulf shipping sources said existing shipping regulations were ineffective to prevent fraud. They said containers at ports of departure could not all be thoroughly checked.

Many Gulf businessmen have enlisted the services of quality surveyors to check cargoes at the ports before they are loaded, but fees are high.

Gulf chambers of commerce are now trying to combat fraud by distributing lists of foreign companies with records of fraud. But one official told Reuters that blacklisting such companies was almost useless since in many cases the crooks represented "ghost" companies which existed only in name.

"All it takes is another office in another country with a new name and they are in business with us again," he added.

Lifeboat for Thai finance companies

A Thai scheme to pool the management and funds of ailing finance companies is the start of a long-term restructuring of the troubled sector. Chris Sherwell, recently in Bangkok, reports.

Thailand's banking authorities, still saddled with the problem of ailing finance companies, are hoping that a proposal to "pool" the managements and funds of troubled companies will finally staunch the draining of public confidence of the past eight months.

The proposal is said to be similar to the Bank of England's 1973 "lifeboat" scheme for troubled secondary banks and is the latest in a series of measures initiated following the failure of a major finance company last October.

Since then about a dozen finance companies have either collapsed, been suspended, or had their licences revoked. Many more have sought or are in need of help, not least because the public has shifted deposits to stronger companies or to the commercial banks.

The scale of this shift is believed to amount to several billion baht. Its significance stems from the fact that, by last year, Thailand's finance companies, by then numbering more than 100, had succeeded in amassing assets of more

than 100 billion baht (\$4.35 billion) — almost a quarter of the assets of the whole commercial banking system.

The companies offered promissory notes with attractive rates of interest, and grew rapidly in the unregulated environment of the 1970s until one of them collapsed in 1979. The seeds of the latest crisis, which began with the liquidity problems of Equity Development and Finance last October, can be traced to the inadequate action taken at that time.

Nukul Prachumab, the general governor of the Bank of Thailand, the central bank, says he initially refused to take on his job in 1979 because he foresaw the problem with the finance companies. "It was a matter of time," he says. "We only managed to postpone the explosion." He also acknowledges that the measures first taken after October were not sufficient. Had he had a free hand, he says, he would have done more sooner.

The Bank's idea was for a deposit insurance scheme similar to

that found in Western countries, to protect depositors. Sommai Hoontrakool, the finance minister, vetoed the proposal, saying it would take time to implement. He urged tough action against irresponsible finance companies instead.

Measures which were implemented included the use of the Thai Financial Syndicate, in which banks are shareholders, to take on bad paper and pay holders' money back without interest over a 10-year period. A bail-out fund was also set up, involving the state-owned Krung Thai Bank.

In December the law was extensively revised to allow closer supervision and scrutiny of non-bank institutions. The authorities can now approve and remove managers and directors, insist on better accounting and more public disclosure, and penalise offenders.

The proposal to "pool" management and funds is aimed at a longer term restructuring of the sector, and starts from the premise that many companies — notably the scores of independent ones — have suffered because of poor management and inadequate financial support.

The finance companies have

been told that they could receive help in exchange for turning over 25 per cent of their shares to the authorities, which would in turn have half the votes. About 17 have applied, and the first "management pool" is being arranged.

Under the scheme, one of the stronger companies is made a "core" company, on which the authorities concentrate management assistance and funding support through the banking system. The core company would in turn help another four or five suffering more difficult problems. About three such "pools" are planned, but only one is close to being operational.

The Bank says that a legal snag — an individual cannot manage or advise more than one finance company — will not be insuperable. Nor is the door closed to any company wanting help later if it decides existing options cannot work.

Asked if he is confident about the scheme Mr. Nukul says frankly: "We don't say we are confident. We've not done this before." But it does signify the beginning of the end of the crisis, he says. — Financial Times news feature.

Vienna surgeons try new coronary infarct therapy

The lesion of the heart muscle by a coronary infarct basically depends on two factors: the extent of the area temporarily cut off from blood supply and the duration of the blood supply deficiency. The primary aim of infarct therapy therefore is to secure the quickest possible restoration of blood supply. Physicians at the Vienna University's II. Surgical Clinic recently developed a new method of remedy which, practicable in any hospital, is based on the implementation of very simple principles of curative treatment. Specialists in Vienna as well as in Los Angeles some years ago had taken up again an approach to the problem which had been discussed already previously as a means of remedy: namely to attempt a "backward" or "retrograde" restoration of blood supply to the infarct area over the largest of the cardiac veins, the coronary sinus.

Kalgoorlie booms

By Reg Gratton

Reuter

KALGOORLIE, Australia — The cars parked bumper-to-bumper in dimly lit Hay street mean brisk business for the ladies offering their warmth on a cold winter's night in this gold-mining town.

The women, sitting under pink lights on porches in front of small prefabricated rooms, disappear inside with greater regularity as the night goes on.

Police cars cruise by unobtrusively in Australia's best-known red-light district, where the madams are rejoicing like the rest of the business community in the return of the boom days.

For a town that nearly died when the gold mines closed down in the mid-1970s, these are heady times, with an acute shortage of housing, sky-high rents and no-vacancy signs hanging outside the hotels.

The rise in the gold price in the late seventies revived the town, which was founded in the famous western Australian gold rush of the 1890s and is at the heart of a remote region boasting vast unexplored mineral riches.

It's Australia's only real boom town. There's more money being invested here now than in the last

80 years," says Kalgoorlie stockbroker David Reed.

International companies are among those which have poured more than \$2 billion into the goldfields over the last five years.

Companies are opening new shafts and reworking old dumps on the famous "Golden Mile," once the richest square mile on earth, using cheaper methods to extract the precious metal.

As Pat Gilroy, secretary of the Gold Producers' Association, put it: "These days you can't bank on the road being there the following week."

The numbers flocking to Kalgoorlie do not compare to the old gold fever days. Then its population grew to 30,000 in the nine years after Irishman Paddy Hannan discovered gold in 1893 near what is now the Mount Charlotte Mine.

The mine itself is a symbol of Kalgoorlie's renaissance. Its owners, Kalgoorlie Mining Associates, are sinking a \$60 million shaft, the largest single investment in the town's history.

Local officials estimate that the population has grown by 2,500 since 1981 to about 23,000, forcing scores of families to live permanently in caravan parks because they cannot find other accommodation.

SCANDINAVIAN SHOWROOM

- ★ Living rooms
- ★ Dining rooms
- ★ Bedroom sets
- ★ Wall units
- ★ Lighting fixtures
- ★ Club B for children
- ★ Modern Danish design
- ★ Feather upholstery
- ★ Danish Pack Homes
- ★ Tax-free if applicable

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Connors defeats Lendl

LONDON (R) — Third-seeded Jimmy Connors won a semifinal battle of determination and endurance over Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia here Friday to reach the Wimbledon singles final for the sixth time.

The pugnacious 31-year-old American fought back from the loss of the first set on a tie-break to outlast the bigger, stronger and younger French Open Champion 6-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 in just under three hours.

Under sunny skies and with centre court temperatures around 30 degrees Celsius, Connors and the 24-year-old Lendl waged what after the first set looked like becoming a war of attrition with everything favouring the younger man.

But under the remorseless and efficient shotmaking of the 1974 and 1982 champion, it was Lendl who wilted. Near the end of the third set his legs were wobbly and after he lost that set his game dis-

integrated.

Until then, it was an absorbing duel between two of the game's biggest hitters in which Connors looked in danger of being overwhelmed by Lendl's power in the opening set before finding a way to neutralise for in the rest of the match.

Lendl, who won the French Open final from McEnroe last month after being two sets down, had been trying to build up the speed of his service throughout this tournament and it seemed to reach maximum efficiency Friday.

He had Connors in trouble on each of his service games in the opening set, but the American found he could win his own service games just as easily. There were

no breaks and no breaks points throughout the set.

Lendl broke Connors' serve twice early in the tie-break, lost his own twice and then broke Connors twice more for the set, once when Connors contributed his only double fault of the match.

With Lendl's serve spearing into the corners — he served 18 aces in the match — and with his powerful forehand drives picking up numerous points, Connors seemed to be in trouble.

But the American then proceeded to turn the match around and for the rest of the contest he exposed more and more the deficiencies of Lendl's grass-court game.

Last chance to save Olympic Games, says Greek president

ATHENS (R) — Greek President Constantine Karamanlis Friday presented his idea for returning the Olympic Games permanently to their land of origin to the head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Karamanlis said afterwards it could be the last chance for the future of the politically troubled games.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch did not speak to newsmen afterwards. In the past he has expressed opposition to the suggestion, first made by Karamanlis in 1976.

Karamanlis, who has intensified his calls for a permanent Olympic site in Greece since the Soviet Union and other countries decided to boycott this summer's Los Angeles Games, said he and Samaranch agreed the idea would be discussed at a forthcoming IOC meeting in Los Angeles.

The Greek president said in a statement: "I fear that this is the last opportunity given to us to

bring back to health and save this unique, centuries-old institution, which has changed from being a force for international brotherhood and noble competition, into an object of political struggles and commercial ambitions."

Karamanlis wants the site to be near ancient Olympia, where the games were held between 776 B.C. and 393 A.D. It should be neutral territory under IOC authority, he says.

In 1980 an IOC committee selected a possible Greek site near the lake of Kalamata, but the idea

ran into substantial opposition at an IOC meeting the following year.

Since Karamanlis revived the idea this year, it has been praised by United States legislators, the European Parliament and Czechoslovak Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal.

Strougal said: "at this stage it is the only solution," the Greek news agency ANA reported.

Greece's socialist government has backed the efforts of Karamanlis, a former conservative prime minister.

Spencer last chance to retain 500cc title in Belgian race

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Reigning world 500 cc motorcycle champion, 'Fast Freddie' Spencer of the U.S., will have probably his last chance to retain the title in this Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps.

Spencer, who withdrew after only two laps from last week's Dutch Grand Prix at Assen, must bring his Honda in well up the field if he is to catch compatriot Eddie Lawson, currently 27 points clear at the top of the World Championship table.

Lawson, riding a Yamaha, has an almost unassailable 99 points after coming in third last week

behind Randy Mamola of the U.S. and Frenchman Raymond Roche, both on Hondas.

Spencer was forced out at Assen by mechanical problems with his prototype V4 Honda, but has managed to hang on to second place overall, despite missing two of this season's eight races.

But with only three races to go after this weekend, Mamola and Roche, both riding the older three-cylinder Hondas, are challenging hard.

Local hopes rest with Belgian Didier de Radigue, who won last year's 250 cc race here. He is eighth in this year's 500 cc championship.

Piquet aims for 3rd victory

DALLAS (R) — A month ago Nelson Piquet's chances of retaining his world Formula One title looked remote. He had failed to score a point in the first six Grands Prix of the season.

But since then the charismatic Brazilian's fortunes have changed dramatically and on Sunday in this the bustling city of rich oilmen and glass-plated, high rise buildings made famous by the scheming J.R. Ewing of the 'Dallas' television series he will be seeking his third successive Grand Prix win.

His season took off with victory in the Canadian Grand Prix and he kept the momentum going by swopping his badly damaged Brabham for his back-up car after a pile-up in the early moments of the Detroit race to pick up another nine points.

Piquet still faces a sizeable task in his bid to overhaul World Championship leader Alain Prost. The Frenchman's McLaren earned him three victories and a second place in his first six races and his 34.5 points haul leaves him well clear of team-mate Niki Lauda of Austria, who has 24 points.

In third place is Elio de Angelis of Italy. He has raced consistently well in his Lotus, finishing in seven of the eight races.

A major factor in Sunday's race will be how the Brabham and McLaren teams, which have both adopted turbo engines, will cope with the untried Dallas circuit and the furnace-like conditions exceeding 38 degrees Celsius in the sunbelt city.

The deal to bring Formula One racing to Dallas has been worked out only in the past 18 months, and construction crews worked feverishly for almost 11 weeks to complete the 4.03-km circuit among the 1920s Art Deco State Fair Park buildings.

The cars will start off along a fast straight, slowing down through a series of bends and a hairpin. Then comes a fast section with a couple of chicanes, followed by a curve into a long, fast straight featuring another chicane.

The cars will sweep around a left-hand curve that precedes a second hairpin, then swing around a right-hand bend to the finish line.

Although the first part of the season has been dominated by the McLarens and Brabhams, several other teams have emerged as strong contenders.

The Ferrari camp has collected points in only five races, but one of those was a first place finish by Michele Alboreto of Italy in the Belgian Grand Prix. Rene Arnoux of France placed second in the Italian Grand Prix and holds fifth spot in the championship standings with 16.5 points.

Britain's Derek Warwick is in sixth place with 13 points, even though his Renault has completed only three races.

Keke Rosberg of Finland stands seventh with 11 points, but it has been a disappointing season for him with the new Honda turbo engine in his Williams car proving inconsistent.

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1. **Participation (open invitation to tender)**
Participation is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons who are nationals of the member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) and is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons who are nationals of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, provided they conform with the Jordanian legislation for such participation.

2. **Subject:**
Invitation to tender for the supply, in 10 lots, of machinery, equipment and handtools for the following work shops. Central heating, auto mechanics, electrical, basic training, woodwork, sheet metal and welding, airconditioning and refrigeration, supply of training aids, furniture and laboratory equipment.

3. **Invitation to tender dossier**
In English only, may be obtained free of charge, starting July 7, 1984 from

- Ministry of Education, P.O. Box 9640, Amman, Jordan.
- The Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, P.O. Box 926794, Amman, Jordan.
- Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General for Development, 200, Rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium.
- Information Offices of the European Communities in:
 - D-53 Bonn, Zitellmannstrasse 22
 - The Hague, Lange Voorhout 29
 - Luxembourg, Chambre de Commerce, 7 Rue Alcide de Gasperi, BP 1503.
 - F-75782 Paris Cedex 16, 61 Rue des Belles Feuilles
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 - Dublin, 39 Molesworth Street
 - London SW1P 3AT, 8 Storey's Gate.
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4. Tenders should be sent to the Directorate of the Projects Unit, P.O. Box 9640, Amman, Jordan, to arrive at the latest by 20/9/1984 at 10:00 hours local time.

The tenders will be opened in Amman on Sept. 20, 1984 at 10:00 hours local time.

Minister of Education

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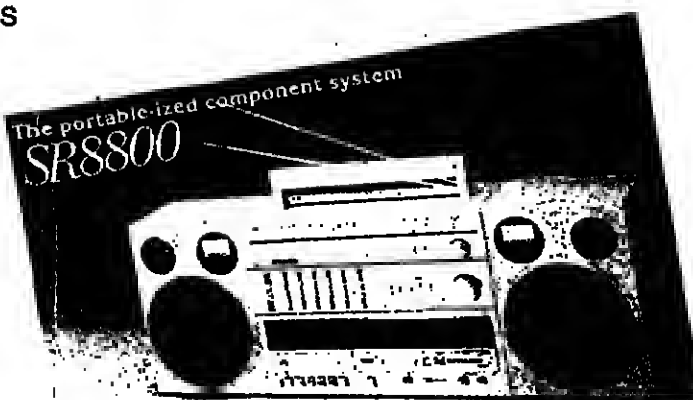
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Government Tendering Directorate Announcement of school building projects

Fifth Education Project.

Prequalified local and international contractors for the fifth Education Project are invited to purchase tender documents from Projects Directorate/Ministry of Education starting July 7, 1984 with the following conditions

- The Fifth Education Project is partially financed by the World Bank for Development and Reconstruction and the Saudi Fund for Development.
- The Fifth Education Project consists of (18) schools and is divided into five groups. This announcement is for the 4th group.
- Last date for purchase of contract documents is Aug. 9, 1984.
- Last date for submitting tenders is 11 a.m. Aug. 22, 1984, at the Government Tenders Directorate.
- Contractors may submit proposals for one school project or more, on condition that each proposal be submitted in a separate envelop.
- Contractors should submit the following in their proposals:

- Technical proposal in a separate envelop containing work programme and present work load stating commitment and percentage of completion in each project.
- Priced Bill of Quantities which shall be filled in words as well as in figures for the Unit Prices column and must also submit a break down of the prices of major items.

- Tenders announced:-
No. 43/84 Marg El Hammam Vocational School/Boys 8500 m²
No. 44/84 South Shouneh Vocational School/Boys 10050 m²
No. 45/84 Madaba Vocational Girls 5500 m²
No. 46/84 Wadi Essier Vocational School/Girls 4700 m²
- Prices of tender documents and bid bonds are as follows:

	Price of Bid Documents (JD)	Bid Bond (JD)
No. 43/84	150	30,000
No. 44/84	175	40,000
No. 45/84	125	20,000
No. 46/84	125	17,000

Chairman, Central Tendering Committee
Director, Govt. Tenders Directorate.

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"Italian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
BASMAN
Tel: 30126

SURKSHA
"Indian Film"
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
PALESTINE
Tel: 22117

1- TORCHES OF FREEDOM
"Indian Film"
2- MASTER OF BEASTS
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 22198

COOLIE
"Indian Film"
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Amman, Saq Al-Sail Street — Khotat Market

Sikh hijackers free hostages, surrender at Lahore Airport

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Eight Sikh hijackers of an Indian airliner freed all 256 hostages and surrendered to Pakistani authorities Friday, ending a 20-hour drama which began over the troubled Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The surrender by the hijackers was unconditional, a Pakistani government spokesman said. Hijacking carries the death penalty in Pakistan.

The hijackers had earlier made several demands, including the release of Sikh prisoners in India's Punjab state, withdrawal of army troops and other para-military forces stationed there and \$25 million in compensation for damage to the Sikhs' Golden Temple in Amritsar which was stormed by troops last month.

"No demand was met," the government spokesman told reporters after the hostages and the hijackers left the Indian Airlines Airbus.

The spokesman described the surrender as "the successful culmination of the process of negotiations with the hijackers."

He said the hijackers would be handed over to the Pakistani law enforcement agencies to be dealt with "under the law." He did not elaborate.

Although the law provides for the death penalty, nothing is publicly known about the fate of five Indian Sikhs who hijacked an Indian plane to Pakistan in 1981 and were overpowered by Pakistani commandos.

Commandos were also on hand Friday at Lahore, capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, and were brought from as far as Karachi, informed sources said.

The hijackers forced the Airbus to come to Lahore Thursday just 10 minutes into a flight from the Indian Kashmir state capital of Srinagar to New Delhi.

In New Delhi, Captain Kamini Chadha, managing director of Indian Airlines, told Reuters he was not aware of any injuries to either the passengers or the hijackers.

The hijackers earlier released seven passengers who had been taken ill. They included three Sikhs who were given immediate medical attention.

Pakistani officials did not immediately disclose the identity of the hijackers.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency described them as a Sikh suicide squad.

Earlier Friday Pakistani officials said the hijackers had agreed to free up to 30 hostages in return for fuel. They then planned to fly out of Pakistan with the remaining hostages.

Complaints lead to Argentine army shake-up

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A top-level shake-up in the Argentine army, the first in seven months of civilian rule, has followed tension in the officer corps over investigations into human rights violations and complaints over pay and promotions.

President Raul Alfonsín Wednesday night unexpectedly accepted the resignation of Gen. Jorge Arguindegui, the army chief of staff, and relieved Gen. Pedro Mansilla of his command of the Third Army Corps.

On Thursday, the Defence Ministry said two generals on the board of a military industrial complex had been sacked. They had been critical of civilian interference in the running of the complex, known as Fabricaciones Militares (FM).

The shake-up came as Argentine television broadcast a documentary by a state commission which detailed human rights violations by the former military government.

A bomb later exploded on the roof of the television station that

Kohl meets Alfonsín for world debt talks

BUENOS AIRES (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met Argentine President Raul Alfonsín Thursday for talks expected to focus on the world debt crisis.

The chancellor met Mr. Alfonsín at Government House after laying a wreath at a monument to Gen. Jose de San Martin, a hero of Latin America's independence struggle against Spain.

Mr. Kohl, whose visit is also due to visit Mexico on his current tour, attended last month's Communist summit of major non-Communist industrialised nations. Mr. Alfonsín was at last month's conference of debtor nations in Cartagena, Colombia.

They are the first heads of government of the two groups to meet since the conferences.

Senator criticises Reagan on Central American aid

WASHINGTON (R) — New figures issued by the U.S. Defence Department show non-Communist countries, including the United States, funnel more arms to Latin America than the Soviet Bloc, Senator William Proxmire said Thursday.

The Wisconsin Democrat, in a written statement, also accused President Reagan of "subtly misleading" the public in a May 9 speech on Central America in which he compared aid to the Tegucigalpa provided by Moscow and Washington.

In that address, Mr. Reagan accused the Soviet Bloc of giving Cuba and Nicaragua \$4.9 billion last year, "while the United States provided its friends throughout Central America with only a fraction of that amount."

Sen. Proxmire said he was told by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger that \$4.65 billion, or 95 per cent, of the Soviet money went to Cuba.

Only \$280 million went to Nicaragua, of which \$110 million was military aid and \$170 million economic assistance, he said.

"Instead of representing a threat to the United States, this an-

French, U.S. firms sign AIDS accord

PARIS (R) — A French drug firm said Thursday it had agreed to develop jointly with an American concern a test system aimed at early diagnosis of the killer syndrome AIDS.

L'Institut Pasteur Production (IPP), co-owned by the Pasteur Institute and the Bio-technology Combine Sanofi, added it signed the agreement with Genetic Systems of the U.S.

The pact would help both partners greatly, medical sources said. Genetic Systems had a \$70 million for research, the French only one million francs (\$115,000).

Under the deal, IPP would have exclusive marketing rights for a test system in Western Europe's 10-nation European Community while the U.S. firm would have exclusive rights there. The two would share marketing elsewhere.

There is no known cure for AIDS (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome). It mysteriously and fatally cuts bodily defences against severe ailments such as cancer and is believed caused by a virus.

Researchers say a vital part of the battle against AIDS, which first surfaced among U.S. homosexuals, is the ability to identify it as an early stage.

AIDS is regarded as more treatable than, so, while work to develop a vaccine goes on, the partnership hopes to produce a test to identify the viral cause in suspected AIDS victims.

U.S. envoy begins talks in Peking

PEKING (R) — China Thursday accused the superpowers of hypocrisy over nuclear weapons talks as U.S. arms control chief Kenneth Adelman opened two days of discussions with senior Chinese officials in Peking.

The official Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, charged that the superpowers were both trying to score propaganda points without seriously wanting talks either on controlling space weapons or reducing nuclear arsenals.

"Public opinion in the West can see that neither side is sincere in hoping for negotiations towards an arms reduction settlement. They are just orchestrating one big propaganda farce," the paper stated in a commentary.

It published the broadside as Mr. Adelman began talks with senior Chinese Foreign Ministry officials as part of U.S. moves to keep Peking informed about discussions between the superpowers, U.S. officials said.

A U.S. embassy statement said the trip by Mr. Adelman, who is director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, followed discussions during President Reagan's visit to Peking at the end of April.

China, which blames both Moscow and Washington for what it sees as mounting global tension, has called on the superpowers to resume talks on reducing arsenals of strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles.

Negotiations on European-

enhanced medium-range missiles opened in Geneva in late 1981, but were suspended by Moscow when U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 weapons began arriving in Europe last November.

Separate U.S.-Soviet talks on strategic weapons were adjourned in December and Moscow has refused to set a date for their resumption. But a Soviet proposal last Friday for talks on space weapons was quickly accepted by President Reagan.

China, which has a nuclear capability, argues that as the superpowers possess 95 per cent of the world's nuclear weaponry they should take the lead in reducing their nuclear and conventional forces and lessen the danger of war.

The present treaty, which allows mutual military co-operation and a big U.S. military presence, did not contain a firm enough commitment for the U.S. to defend Honduras.

The military official said that in addition, the army wanted the 30-year-old defence treaty str-

engthened to guarantee American help in case of attack from Nicaragua or El Salvador with which Honduras fought a brief border war 15 years ago.

"We would like to increase economic and military aid ... Ideally, we would like a deal similar to that of El Salvador," the official said.

El Salvador received about \$320 million in total U.S. aid last year.

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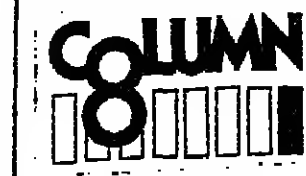
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German clock brings record price

LONDON (R) — A 17th-Century German clock fetched a world record price for a timepiece when sold Thursday for \$842,000 (\$1.13 million) Sotheby's auctioneers said. The clock, with silver gilt mounts, was bought by London silver dealer J. Koopman.

Women outnumber men in Manila

MANILA (R) — Women just outnumber men in the Philippines capital, the national census office said Thursday. It said the total population of 5,925,884 in the metropolitan area consisted of 3,070,172 women and 2,855,712 men — or 1.07 women for every man.

Jakarta to crack down on prostitutes

JAKARTA (R) — Jakarta authorities plan to crack down on prostitutes who collect around the national monument in the centre of the capital to ply their trade, a city spokesman said. He told reporters Thursday that the city planned a drive to get rid of the hundreds of prostitutes who gather nightly in Freedom Square at the foot of the national monument, a huge white stone column erected by the late President Sukarno. The square is close to the Presidential Palace, several government ministries and the city's business area.

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The military official said that in addition, the army wanted the 30-year-old defence treaty str-

engthened to guarantee American help in case of attack from Nicaragua or El Salvador with which Honduras fought a brief border war 15 years ago.

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